

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8 and 14-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 9-13 and 18-27 are canceled; and Claims 5-8 and 14-17 are amended. Amended Claims 5-8 and 14-17 find support in the original specification, claims and drawings¹, thus no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Drawings were objected to, as failing to designate Figs. 1-2 as prior art; Claims 4, 12 and 21 were objected to over informalities; Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-22 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by the admitted prior art (Figs. 1-2, pages 1-4 of the Specification); and Claims 5-8, 14-27 and 23-26 were objected to as dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the objections to the Drawings, Figs. 1-2 have been marked as "Background Art" and are included as replacement drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objections to the Drawings be withdrawn.

In response to the objections to Claims 4, 12 and 21 over informalities, Claims 4, 12 and 21 are canceled, rendering the objections moot.

In response to the rejections of Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-22 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-22 and 27 are canceled, rendering the rejections moot.

In response to the objection to Claims 5-8, 14-27 and 23-26, Claims 5-8 and 14-17 have been amended into independent form, incorporating the limitations of all the base claims and intervening claims. Therefore, Claims 5-8 and 14-17 are allowable, as indicated by the

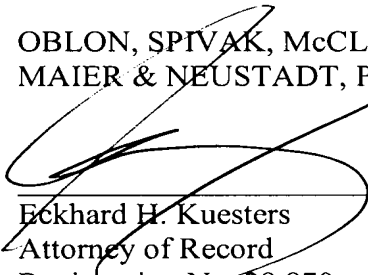
¹ Claims 5, 7 and 14-17 have been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of their parent claims. Claims 6 and 8 are amended to address informalities.

Office Action on page 5. Claims 23-26 have been canceled, rendering the objections to these claims moot.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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